

Developing a Christian Community: Campus Ministry

By Katherine Stembel, Office of Publications and Media Relations Intern

An integral part of Saint Joseph's College, Campus Ministry helps students grow ethically, socially, and spiritually. Founded in 1889 with the inception of SJC, Campus Ministry strives to meet the needs of students of all denominations.

Under the sponsorship of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood (C.P.P.S.), the Campus Ministry staff provides guidance, support, and resources to the SJC community. Chaplain and Director of Campus Ministry Rev. Jeffrey Kirch, C.P.P.S. '98 and Campus Ministers Ary Nelson '02 and Bro. Tim Hemm, C.P.P.S. '70 lead Mass and SJC groups that meet students' spiritual needs and provide opportunities to explore their faith through retreats, service endeavors, and social justice issues.

Diverse programs and activities are available for students interested in making a difference. "One goal of Campus Ministry is to create more service opportunities this semester because that's something students are very interested in," Kirch said. Volunteer Corps is one important outlet for service. Through Volunteer Corps, students can play bingo at a local nursing home, rake leaves during the annual fall "Rake and Run" outings, and do chores for the elderly. They can also participate in the annual "Trick or Treat for the Hungry" canned food drive and feed the disadvantaged at soup kitchens. Several Volunteer Corps members also recently volunteered at The Glenn at Saint

Joseph's in Dayton, Ohio, a new facility designed to help single mothers, most of whom are attempting to escape abusive situations.

"Campus Ministry has brought a new perspective to my life," said sophomore Biology-Chemistry major Shanna Tobar of Logansport, Indiana, who participates in several Campus Ministry activities including music ministry, soup kitchens, and Right to Life, among others. "I am a lot closer to God and my faith as a Catholic. Campus Ministry offers students a chance to change other people's lives. Students receive the joy of realizing they didn't do something just for themselves - they did something to make a difference in the world."

At the annual, nationwide December Candlelight Vigil for Covenant House, SJC community members can aid in the awareness of issues such as homelessness and at-risk youth. The SJC Right to Life group also helps the local Birthright Chapter and discusses controversial issues such as abortion, cloning, and capital punishment, and Puma Women Today creates a campus dialogue about women's issues.

"Campus Ministry is open to students of all denominations, and they can find their niche," Kirch said. As well as a break from studies, Kirch sees Campus Ministry as a social networking opportunity, an occasion for students to grow in their faith lives through service activities, and a chance to give something back to the College and God.



The Campus Ministry Staff includes (R-L) Hemm, Nelson, and Kirch. (Photo courtesy of http://www.saintjoe.edu/campus_ministry/staff.html)

Campus Ministry offers a wide variety of sacramental opportunities, as well. Students are included in liturgical ministries and are able to assist

"Campus Ministry has brought a new perspective to my life."
~Shanna Tobar

with Sunday Mass planning; serve as greeters, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and servers; and participate in music ministry. Campus Ministry also helps students discover their faith through sessions of "Exploring

Catholicism," an open discussion forum that encourages participants to delve into controversial issues that impact the lives of millions.

The spiritual needs of non-Catholics are also met through Campus Ministry. Students are aided in their search for churches of their own denominations and students of all faiths may also find a spiritual core through the annual Kairos retreats. Held off-campus three times a year, these intense, four-day experiences are designed to allow students to get to know themselves better, develop relationships, and realize the place of God in their own lives. A new addition to the

Kairos schedule this academic year is an on-campus retreat for high school students from surrounding counties during SJC's Spring Break. Campus Ministry also offers a fall and spring Wilderness Camping Retreat, led by peer ministers.

New activities and outreach opportunities are added every year, and Campus Ministry serves as a dynamic and vital element of the SJC Christian community.



Brandon Mayse participates in the Video Dance Party. (Photo courtesy of Stewart)

Video Dance Party Successful

By Joe Stewart, Staff Writer

The Ballroom of the Halleck Student Center came alive Saturday, September 16, when students gathered to enjoy the Video Dance Party sponsored by Saint Joseph's College Student Union Board.

From 9 p.m. until 1 a.m., those fun-loving patrons of the dance were seen "shaking their bon-bons," as the event flyers so delicately phrased it, to the sounds of the Ultra Dance Party disc jockeys.

From Green Day to Bubba Sparxxx, the music of the featured artists and the accompanying music videos kept the attendees of the party entertained all night long.

The level of enjoyment, in some cases, exceeded expectation.

"It was a lot of fun, actually," freshman music education major Zachary Lambert said. "The videos on the screen, I mean. I'd seen the concept before, but sometimes you don't know that there's a video that goes with the [currently playing] song, and then it pops up, and you're like, 'Whoa!'"

Whoa, indeed. Despite the larger crowds not gathering until well after 9 p.m., the Video Dance Party still had quite a turnout.

"I was very happy with the number of people there,"

sophomore business administration major Simmie Border, SUB Promotions Director, said. "The videos were a nice twist on the dances that we've had in the past. I thought that the DJs had a lot to do with it. They were very professional, catering the music they played to what the crowd wanted to hear."

Freshman theatre arts major Rachael Kooi agreed. "The DJs were really nice," she said. "They played pretty much everything that we requested."

The important thing to remember is that the Video Dance Party, like all SUB events, is open to critique. "If you loved the dance and want to see more



SUB's Video Dance Party provided an opportunity for students to socialize. (Photo courtesy of Stewart)

events like that, let us know," Border said. "If you definitely didn't and would like to see something different in the future, let us know that, too. Stop by the SUB meetings [7:30 p.m. every Monday evening in Core 119] and tell us what you would like. We're here for you."



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"Puttin' on the Ritz" at SJC's Hollywood-themed Homecoming Weekend

By Becky Scherer, Office of Publications and Media Relations

Saint Joseph's College is preparing for a star-studded weekend as we roll out the red carpet and welcome alumni, students, parents, and friends back to campus for Homecoming 2006, October 6-8. This year's Hollywood-style theme, "Lights, Camera, Homecoming 2006," will bring all the glitz and glamour of Tinsel Town right to Rensselaer.

The events kick off on October 6 with an open golf and card tournament at Curtis Creek Country Club at 1:00 p.m. CST. Later that evening, various honor class activities are scheduled to take place, including cocktails and a private dinner with SJC President Ernest R. Mills III and his wife Liz in SJC's

Schwietermann Community Dining Room.

On Saturday, the Puma football team will play the Crusaders of Valparaiso University at 12:00 p.m. CST. Other events throughout the day include a 5K campus run/walk (jointly sponsored by the Jasper County Youth Center, with all proceeds benefiting the Center), alumni baseball game, Kids' Art Tent, and tour of historic Drexel Hall, as well as an open house and Theatre tour hosted by the Columbian Players.

Saturday evening, cocktails and dinner will take place beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Halleck Student Center Ballroom. Guests can participate in the excitement of Casino Night,

where the gaming tables are run by professional dealers. At the dinner, the College will also recognize several individuals with Alumni Service, Alumni Achievement, and Rudy Volz MVP Awards.

Dinner tickets are \$35 and must be purchased in advance. Gaming is for entertainment purposes only, and theme attire is encouraged but not mandatory.

Guests who would like to attend Casino Night only can register on-line for \$10 per person; the doors will open at approximately 8:30 p.m. after the awards presentations.

For more information, contact Alumni and Parent Relations Director Kendra Illingworth at 800-227-1898.

Make Your Voice Heard: Get Published

By Katherine Stembel, News Editor

Measure, a campus group that also publishes an annual creative arts magazine, offers an opportunity for SJC community members to share their literary and artistic talent.

"Measure is an outlet for people to enjoy the written word in an informal and non-academic atmosphere," said senior English-creative writing major Teresa Moreno, who has been involved since her sophomore year at SJC. "Measure also provides an outstanding literary magazine that shows the talents of the writers on our campus."

By sponsoring monthly readings at Cup O' Joe in the basement of the SJC Chapel, Measure allows students to read their original poetry and prose, or that of their favorite author.

In addition to the readings, Measure is currently planning a "Submissions Workshop & Game Night" in November and second semester gala to unveil the new magazine.

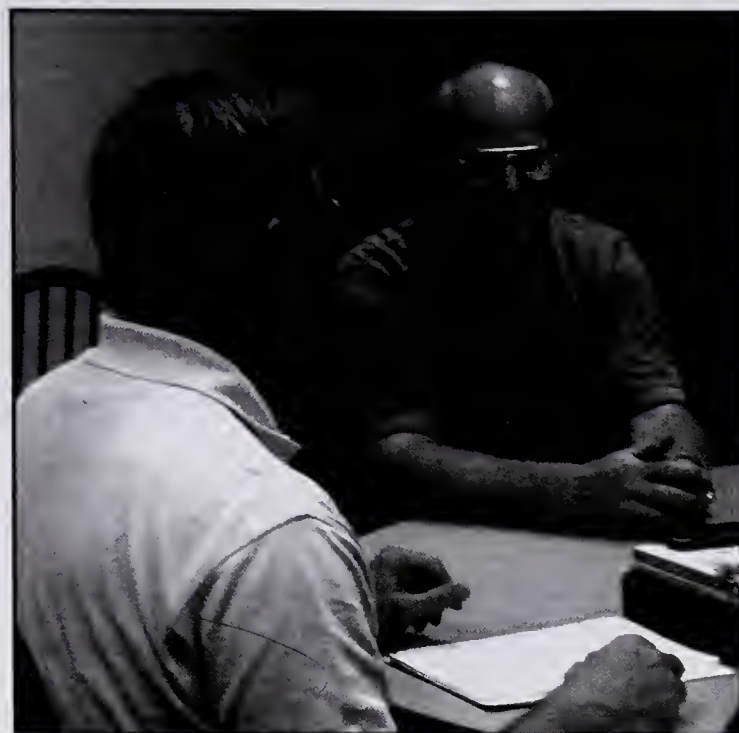
Measure has even invited distinguished fiction writer and professor of English from Indiana University in Bloomington, Scott Russell Sanders, to speak at SJC.

"As editors-in-chief, it is [co-editor-in-chief Danny Waclaw and my] hope that Measure will grow and be able to provide the students of SJC the chance to immerse themselves in literature and continue to give writers a chance to be published," said Moreno. "We hope that in our endeavors, students will become inspired, learn, and share their art with the community."

Measure is currently accepting original fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, art, and photography until November 29. E-mail your submissions to measuresubmissions@gmail.com. Questions? Contact Amber Slagal at asj5055@saintjoe.edu.



Measure Readings Coordinator Gabe Nichols begins the first monthly meeting in Cup O' Joe. Measure is currently accepting original fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, art, and photography submissions until November 29. (Photo Courtesy of Jennifer Hensley)



Associate Professor of Music Robb Thiel (Photo Courtesy of Jennifer Hensley)

Christian Life Study Group More than "Bible Study"

By Elizabeth R. Hall, Staff Writer

Contrary to the popular belief that the Christian Life Study group is just a "Bible study class," it is not. Some may believe that Bible study sessions are designed simply to "stuff the Bible down students' throats." However, this statement is not true. It is actually a chance for college-age Christians to question and discuss the backing behind their beliefs.

"Some of the students here at SJC had approached me with the desire for a Bible study-type group," said Associate Professor of Music Robb Thiel, co-head of the group. "The group itself is actually just to assist students on their Christian walk."

Christian Life Study is basically a support group for Christians going through life changes. The group is inclusive to all denominations.

"Everyone is invited to this group," said Thiel, "including the community and especially college-age students."

Several student participants were complimentary of the group, commenting that "it feels good

because you tend to shine a special light into different places," and "it brings a different option into the scheme of things." They enjoyed the fact that it was an important opportunity to come together for discussion.

"I feel that the group is a good idea because it gives people somewhere to go to assist them in the understanding of the Christian faith," sophomore music major Anthony Dever said.

As the saying goes, "you can't judge a book by its cover." Going by this statement, you cannot judge a group by its name. Do not be fooled by the title of this group. It is not strictly a "Bible study." It is actually an excellent chance for students to come together and assist one another in finding answers to some of life's hardest questions.

Meetings are held Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Puma Cub Room. Eat before or during the hour of fellowship. For more information, contact Thiel at extension 6203. Christian Life Study continues through midterm week.

Put All Your Stock in the SJC Investment Club

By Jennifer Ruff, Staff Writer

Are you interested in the stock market? Do you want to learn how to invest money? Then the Investment Club is right for you!

The goal of the Investment Club is to learn how to invest by participating in a campus-wide portfolio competition and managing the Puma Fund, which is \$10,000 of investment capital endowed by the school.

Using the money, participants are able to invest in shares of Finish Line, Home Depot, Alcoa, E-Bay, and 3M. This summer, a group of members actually got to attend a Finish Line stockholder meeting.

Last year, the club also designed and sold club sweatshirts, organized a club

pizza party, and sponsored a driver in the Little 500 race.

Another exciting element of the Investment Club is their stock competition, in which the members buy stock and see who can make the most money.

So, if you are interested in investing, attend the meetings held every other Tuesday at 9 p.m. in the Courtney Auditorium. Contact the President of Investment Club, Chris Bush [chj4898@saintjoe.edu], Vice President Corey Hecht [chj4822@saintjoe.edu], or Faculty Advisor and Associate Professor of Economics and Finance Michael Oakes [mjoakes@saintjoe.edu] with any questions.

SJC Professors Bring Jazz to Rensselaer Public Library

By Myra Dalton, Staff Writer



Among novels by Ernest Hemingway and John Steinbeck, the sound of jazz music lingered throughout the fiction section at the Rensselaer Public Library on the afternoon of Sunday, September 17.

Around 22 people sat scattered throughout the rows of chairs as they listened to Paul Geraci (left) and Todd Samra (right) play various jazz tunes such as "Don't Get Around Much Anymore," "Misty," and "Sugar."

The performance was part of a cultural event put on by the Friends of the Library to draw community members and SJC students to the library.

Opinions

Opinions--you have them we need them. If you would like to voice your opinion, send a letter to the editor or become an *Observer* contributor. Contact the editorial board via our Saint Joe's email account.

observer-editors@saintjoe.edu

Reply to "Core 5...Why?"

By Father William Stang *Core 5 Director*

First I want to say I appreciate your diligence in keeping an eye on our academic programs. I appreciate finding out from students if we are accomplishing our teaching goals. Computerized student / faculty evaluations are one method we use to accomplish this. Another is your work with the student newspaper.

For these reasons I carefully read your editorial about Core 5 in the Sept 14 issue of the *Observer*. I am director of Core 5, and I want the hard work of our Core 5 faculty to result in well-educated Saint Joseph's College graduates. The editorial showed that the writer shared my concern in this regard. I learned some areas where we can improve. I disagree with the writer, however, on some of his conclusions. In Core Science we teach that a conclusion is only as strong as the observational data it uses. The writer of the editorial had limited observations of Core 5 and this affected his conclusion about what we are doing. So I would like to use this opportunity to say what we are working to do.

Besides the usual theories of education, we in Core 5 create our program using test results from prior SJC Juniors and studies of Science knowledge in America's High School seniors. For example, the most recent national study shows that 47% of America's High School seniors are below a basic level of science understanding. Our own tests show that even our own Science majors are ignorant of many facts and ideas they can learn from Core 5 & 6. There fore we teach science facts that some students already know because we want all students to have information that will help them understand decisions they face in the future. We emphasize these facts in the first half of the first semester of Core 5 and then periodically through the rest of the year.

Though we teach science facts, we are not trying to be a type of Science 101 course you would find at another college. We are working to do our part to achieve the overall

objectives of the Core program. One of those objectives is to help students learn who they are as Human beings. That means understanding the spiritual, mental and physical aspects of being human and how the universe affects us. In Core 5 & 6 we emphasize those areas of science that can help the Core program achieve these goals. At midterm we will begin to present the well-established facts and ideas about the creation and evolution of the universe, the creation and evolution of life and the factors that create and change human culture.

Another goal of Core 5 & 6 is to help students learn a very effective method of honest discovery and clear thinking called "scientific method". Every SJC student today is well aware of how hard it is to separate truth from lies. Well-educated people can lie. Well-meaning people can be wrong. Because of that, we teach students methods that will let them make precise observations to find facts and not get misled by sloppy observations or fakery. We teach thinking. That might seem unnecessary, but it is very easy for the human brain to jump to a wrong conclusion based on a few quick facts. We show how to use precise, verified facts to create logical explanations instead of fantasy or wishful thinking. Another characteristic of our human brain is to want things to be true. Our brains will embrace an idea and then fight against any facts that cast doubt on our desire. In Core 5 & 6 we teach methods for testing ideas and allowing new facts to lead to improved ideas.

I ask you, our students, to continue to give us feedback on how we are doing. I do ask that you use the logic and careful thinking we are trying to teach you. Make careful observations. If they are only your own observations, make sure your conclusion speaks only for you. If you want to make broader conclusions, please base them on broader data that you collected. How well you give us feedback shows us how well we are teaching you to observe and think.

Facebook: A Stalker's Paradise?

By BJ Houlding, *Opinion Editor*

Dateline: The Internet. The Facebook community was up in arms this month as the administrators introduced a new feature: News Feed. This modification to the popular online connection website mortified users. The News Feed makes the front page of Facebook a constantly updating list of things your "friends" have been doing. Sally added new photos? You know. Alexander added a class? You know. That one girl you think might have been in your Core I class, or maybe she dated your roommate or something posted her herpes results? You know.

As a result a multiplicity of groups were created with names like "I hate the new Facebook because I'm not a stalker". In response to those group, more groups were created such as "Admit It: You like reading the News Feed even though you say you hate it". After a few days the Facebook moderators responded to pressure and added a high level of customization. Users are now able to choose what their friends see about them. You can now uncheck the News Feed boxes for "When I post on a wall", "When I add new friends", and "When I have a bowel movement". One would think that these modifications would be sufficient, yet the complaining rolls on.

I will admit that I was as outraged as the rest when News Feed first emerged. I didn't like people knowing every time I changed my quotes or wrote on a

(Photo courtesy of http://pacer.utm.edu/photo_upload/2005-09-27/cover-facebook.jpg)

wall. For example, this past week for International Talk Like a Pirate Day I posted on over 100 walls. That's information that you, my loyal readers are privy too, but I'm not sure that some Joe Blow I met at a concert once needs to know about it. But with the modifications made, people didn't know, and I'm sated. Some are making accusations that the new Facebook system would facilitate stalking. Thankfully, the administrators have added many features to decide who can see what about you. If you don't want certain people to see your pictures, or you wish to prevent a certain group from accessing your blog, its possible to easily prevent these things from happening. As it is now, I maintain the level of privacy I like; yet I get to know things. Overall I appreciate the new influx of available knowledge.

As you all may or may not have been able to tell from my previous article, I'm slightly OCD when it comes to knowledge. I have this driving passion to know everything. The modified News Feed helps this addiction. I won't lie, I need to know things like when Mindy's relationship status changes, Brandon adds a new quote to his

wall, or Ryan alters his status. Knowledge is power.

So obviously, I don't have a problem with News Feed any more. My question is why does everyone else? If you don't want to read the proffered information, don't read it. And now you can prevent others from accessing your information if you so choose, so you're protected. If people didn't want the information to be known, they wouldn't use Facebook in the first place. So thank you News Feed for keeping me up to date.

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An Interview with Dr. Ryan

By Elizabeth R. Hall, *Staff Writer*

1) What education do you have?

A: I have BA and MA in English and a doctorate in Education (school management and instructional leadership)

2) What is your favorite baseball team?

A: Chicago Cubs

3) What are some of your hobbies?

A: I enjoy reading, boating, running/hiking, and family activities

4) What is your favorite food?

A: Seafood—and oatmeal raisin cookies!

5) What do you see in a good professor?

A: Good professor? Briefly—
—One passionately engaged in his or her content area and willing to explore the relationships of other disciplines to his or her content area, one who is respectful of students and colleagues (others), one who challenges and enjoys being challenged, one who listens well and enjoys a sense of humor with self and others, —one who has found great value in life.

6) What was the most meaningful moment in your teaching career?
A: Actually I have to answer this as "continual meaningful moments." Every time at homecoming (or even after a class) when a student(s) mentions how meaningful his or her education was (is) at St. Joseph's,



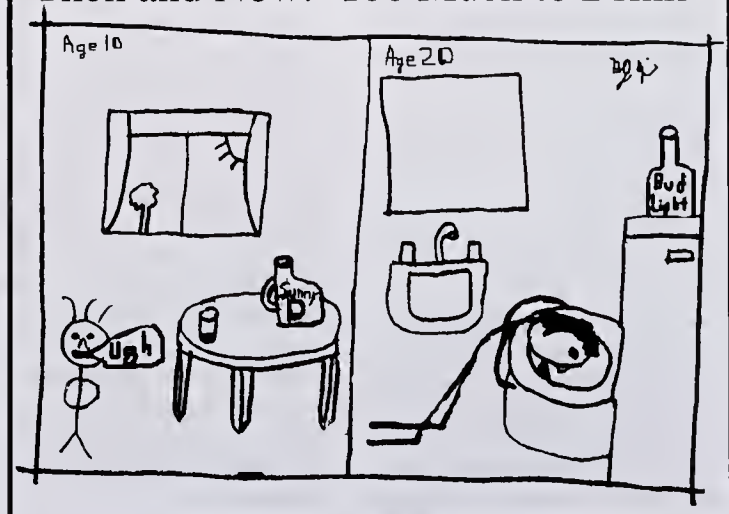
(Photo courtesy of www.saintjoe.edu)

I am energized because I know how important our work is.

7) What has been a surprising moment in your teaching?

A: In one of my past classes here at SJC, I had mentioned that (it's their duty) as students to challenge one another, challenge me, and think creatively for possibilities in our discussions and even day-to-day life. About a week after this discussion in class, I came to class one day and to my surprise—no students. There was a note, "To find us, follow these creative, challenging directions. You have 30 minutes."...Long story made short... The directions were actually "connections" to what we were doing in class. I had to explore places on this campus I had not seen in years and I did not find them in the 30 minutes. So they deducted points from my "grade" and gave me an "A" for attitude and "B+" for my "work." (I really do not like surprises but they it was great that day.)

Then and Now: Too Much to Drink



Teresa’s Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



The Pipettes claim to be leading another British invasion. One can only hope it's more popular than the last British invasion, when the redcoats burned down the White House in the War of 1812. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.drownedinsound.com/images/11749.jpeg>)

Pipettes Claim to be “Prettiest Girls You’ve Ever Met,” Prove Otherwise with Photo

The indie world is experiencing its own British invasion. Adorned in matching polka dot outfits, the Pipettes have entered the indie world to tell us that 60’s pop is indeed not dead.

Hailing from Brighton, England, the Pipettes are a fresh blast from the past. The group is comprised of three female singers and “The Cassettes,” four male instrumentalists who lurk in the Pipettes’ limelight. Each lovely lady carries her own persona full with girl power.

We Are the Pipettes is almost a standard 60’s pop album. With vocal blends, harmonization, hand claps, and a very predictable musical notation placement, it can initially be hard to see what is so alluring to their sound. Their lyrics are not thought provoking, but they are fun and slightly quirky: “Boy, can you see we’re through? / I don’t love you, you don’t make me smile, for a while... / Your kisses are wasted on me.” The Pipettes appear to do nothing new; however, they use their own techniques to make themselves a little different. The irony in their music is the way

their sound matches up with their lyrics. In the song “One Night Stand,” for instance, the girls match fun, upbeat “ooh la la’s” and “sha na na’s” with pessimistic lyrics: “I don’t love you, I don’t want you / If you think this is cruel you should see what my friends do... / Leave me alone you’re just a one night stand to me.”

Instead of being the demure ladies group from the 60’s, the Pipettes put a modern day spin on the classic matching outfits, synchronized dance moves, and vocal blends of that time. The girls throw away the coy, modest appearance and take on the role of vixens. They know they are desirable and flaunt this knowledge in their songs: “We are the Pipettes and we’ve no regrets / In case you haven’t noticed yet we’re the prettiest girls you’ve ever met.” In the song “Sex,” they explain that they are all more interested in one-night stands than serious, committed relationships. The girls are openly sexual, and their polka-dotted attire shouldn’t fool you. The Pipettes are proof that girl groups in the pop genre have survived since the Spice Girls.

The musical Scorecard is used to give a numerical value to the quality of an album. A score of 10 is amazing, but a score of 1 would cause most listeners to cry out in pain. Five is an average score. The review does not express the opinion of *The Observer*.

Musical Scorecard:

Originality: 5

Lyrics: 7

Lasting Appeal: 6

Sex Appeal: 9

Total: 6.75/10

The Proposition Breaks Norms

By Gabriele Nichols, Staff Writer

The Proposition is a movie that by all measures should fail. It’s a western – a genre declared dead many times – written in three weeks by alternative rocker Nick Cave, who brings with him a long career of excessively dark and violent music. However, *The Proposition* manages not only to rise above these doubts, but to completely obliterate them. Much like Sergio Leone and his spaghetti westerns in the 1960s, the Aussie Cave manages to bring a fresh vision to the clichés of the western. There are no white and black hats to mark heroes and villains, just many shades of grey.

The proposition referenced in the title is presented to outlaw Charlie Burns (Guy Pearce) by the local head of police, Captain Stanley (Ray Winstone). Charlie has until Christmas Day to find and kill his psychotic brother, or the youngest brother of the gang hangs. While the search commences, the story also follows the relationship between the captain and his wife, Martha (Emily Watson), as he attempts to shelter her from his “civilizing” of the land.

Set in 1880s Australia, the land is truly a savage place, even in those places claiming to be civilized. Early in the film, a



The Proposition begins with Australian cowboys but ends with gun-wielding Jesus. He’d probably be less homicidal if someone would just give him a shirt. (Photo courtesy of http://images.rottentomatoes.com/images/movie/gallery/1158184/photo_03.jpg)

character impossibly quotes American writer Dorothy Parker by quipping, “Australia. What fresh Hell is this?” Expertly shot by relative new director John Hillcoat, the wilderness of Australia does seem to be an outpost of Hell, albeit an often gorgeous one. Combined with the haunting score created by Nick Cave himself and Warren Ellis, the visuals convey a seemingly endless land unwelcoming to all but its own native people.

The people of *The Proposition* manage to rival the land for brutality. In fact, there is nobody that can be considered a true hero, and villains are prevalent everywhere. The outlaws are not heroic anti-heroes but rapists and murderers, while the townspeople are vengeful and destructive, slaughtering the native peoples and demanding public punishment. The actors portray these fallen characters truthfully,

especially John Hurt and Mike Burns, who manage to make their hyper articulate characters seem not nobly poetic, but simply insane.

With almost no sympathetic characters and such dark themes, *The Proposition* could easily devolve into sheer meaningless nihilism. However, the movie manages to explore the nature of vengeance and justice and the limits of both, while still being an intense and exciting experience. This movie is not for those with weak constitutions, as the violence is extremely realistic, but never exploitative. However, those willing to give the film a try will find a thought provoking and entertaining journey that transcends any conception of being a simple western.

The Proposition was released on DVD on September 19. It is rated R for Strong Grisly Violence and Language.

5 out of 5

Evil Lairs Improved by a Book

By Elizabeth Bessette, Staff Writer

All right, my fellow villains and villainesses, you now have, based on my last article, everything needed to become a proper villain. You have the name, the henchmen, the laugh (if you’re so inclined), and the lair. Now, if you are anything like me, you probably have a little problem with your evil lair. By problem, I mean the place is a pit (sometimes literally), and you just can’t seem to keep it clean. The chemistry set has tipped over, leaving a burning hole in the rug. Luckily, the rug is so moth-eaten that you can’t really tell there’s a huge hole caused by one of the many hazardous materials you’ve created and never properly dumped into the ocean. The remaining death metal posters on the walls that betray your insecure rebellious teenage years are mutilated beyond repair and need to be taken down in order to portray the proper villain image. Your evil garments litter the rest of the lair, and the “unnecessarily slow-moving dipping mechanism” could use an overhaul. All in all, your not-so-humble abode is a wreck, and chances are, so are you. Honestly, who can terrorize the world properly if there is a



This lair features a wavy slide for quick escapes and wood chips for superior vomit absorption. Puking children sold separately. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.outdoorfunstore.com/ofs2/images/items/19ps.jpg>)

cloud of clutter looming over them? Well, my fiends, there is still hope. There is a book that can solve all of your problems. *The Villain’s Guide to Better Living* by Neil Zawacki has all the answers to get your evil butt organized and ready to browbeat those innocents.

Zawacki takes you through step-by-step instructions on how to get you evil lair looking snazzy. Now, I understand that being a college student causes your funds to be tight. The book holds many suggestions for decorating your lair that won’t break the bank or cause you to break into the bank. For those of

you with a taste for the exotic decor of Egypt, you would ideally want to purchase a cursed throne inlaid with gold, sapphires, and rubies. Well, let’s face it, gold and gems are expensive, and if the throne’s curse is genuine, it only triples in price. Instead, the book suggests you try out a price efficient winged back wicker chair. You can keep the old-school Egyptian feel without the cost or the messy curses.

So, go buy yourself a few relics and redecorate. Then, throw a party and impress all your fiendish friends with your new style.

Awkward Small Talk Preserves Society, Delays Cannibalism by an Hour or Two

By Joe Larson, Co-Editor in Chief

As a species, Homo sapiens tend to carry diseases, dance poorly, and smell like burnt hair when struck by meteorites larger than a golf course. It is likely that you will come across one or more of these creatures within your lifetime, perhaps even on a daily basis. Such encounters will inevitably lead you to form a small circle of people whose company you actually prefer, but beyond this circumference of familiarity, there will always be a broader range of loose acquaintances with whom the absence of outright hostility will require you to regularly and awkwardly interact. In most cases, you will know little about these people beyond the fact that they use air you could be breathing, frequent liquor stores you could be robbing, and choose vegetarian menu options with which you could be copulating. Salad can be sexy in an E. coli sort of way. There is a clear technique for dealing with these people you barely know, but decorum dictates that it would be impolite to stab them in the larynx. The only way to survive sustained contact with loose acquaintances without violating social constraints is through the use of meaningless small talk and possibly a handgun. Pointless banter is all that stands between the thin veneer of feigned politeness we call society and unstoppable waves of anarchy, cannibalism, and uncomfortable footwear. It is an undeniable truth that the Roman Empire fell when people stopped talking about the weather and started wearing sandals made of broken glass. Mastering pointless small talk is essential for preventing the total collapse of western civilization, much like electricity is necessary for the successful removal of earwax. The knowledge that the primitive Q-Tip lacks the hygienic power of a wire clothes hanger jammed in a light socket is just one of the many freedoms small talk seeks to preserve.

A large percentage of society already excels at using many words to say nothing. Half the world is comprised of women, who naturally have nothing valuable to communicate beyond stating what's for dinner and how long it will be before they're ready for sex. You won't be interested in intercourse, however, if you've already visited the salad bar. Short people are another demographic that excels at small talk. Anyone less than six feet tall will automatically miss out on important conversation topics, all of which are hidden on high shelves or on top the fridge. Those with something worthwhile to say have the hardest time adapting to meaningless small talk. If you fall into this category, you mistakenly believe that the people hovering around the water



Girls might not like accidentally being called Kilgore, Harvester of Shattered Souls, but it's a lot better than being mistaken for Haldor, Licker of Infected Toes, or Lothar, Toucher of Little Boys. Such mistakes are now impossible because Haldor died from a malicious fungus and Lothar got transferred. (Photo courtesy of <http://canadianjester.tripod.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderpictures/soulcrusher.jpg>)

cooler care about yield curve economics or how long it took you to dislodge your fist from that jar of salsa. Someday you'll find the prize at the bottom, no matter how many emergency room visits it takes. While your misguided search for crackerjack-like prizes might seem like a good story, anything that takes more than four words to explain is of no interest to your coworkers or classmates. For example, "I got drunk and nailed your sister" is a bad way to inform an acquaintance about your weekend exploits. "I; your sister; gonorrhea" is a better one.

Before you master meaningless small talk with people you barely know, you have to recognize the appropriate time to deploy the skill. It's tempting to respond to an acquaintance's nod of acknowledgement with a comment about an approaching warm front or inbound plague of rotten ham sandwiches. The latter hasn't been worked into a conversation since biblical Egypt, and even then it wasn't all that successful because of the whole kosher thing. Any such conversational tangent would be completely inappropriate since a silent nod warrants only a reciprocal nod and perhaps a tip of the hat. If you don't have a hat, a small chunk of your eyebrow will do. The ritual of the acknowledgement nod should be taken seriously because this simple bob of the head is the most basic recognition that you and your acquaintance are both alive and uninterested in smashing each other's faces with galvanized wrenches at this particular moment. The situation becomes trickier when the nod is accompanied by a verbal greeting like "What's up?" or "Your cardigan appears to be leaking spinal fluid and killer bees." "What's your point" is an adequate response to both statements. If the accosting acquaintance happens to be of the

female persuasion, one of two alternate responses may be used: "You have the unsavory musk of the mighty bull walrus" and "You've mastered the binge; now work on the purge." As a species, human beings love being called to task on issues of odor and weight, especially when bulimia is involved.

These ritualized greetings have an increased risk of erupting into small talk when any level of personalization is used. If your acquaintance says, "What's up, [your name here]?" you are obliged to respond in kind. Answering in a way that acknowledges the name of your conversational partner will be a challenge if you recognize people based solely on their relative height and ability to conduct electricity, which is how people are recorded for census purposes. If you can't remember the name of your acquaintance, you can use the word "man" instead, although "androgynous humanoid I vaguely recognize" is more politically correct. Alternately, you may substitute any other name in place of the one you can't recall. As long as you say it with confidence, there's a good chance Jessica won't notice that you just called her Kilgore, Harvester of Shattered Souls.

The quickest way to excel at stilted conversations with someone you barely know is to use increased familiarity to change him or her from being a loose acquaintance to being a sworn enemy, which takes much less effort than turning the person into a friend. To commence the process, honestly assess the person's physical attributes, such as his or her oddly curved spine or suspiciously hairy mammary glands. "Why do you have a chimpanzee on your bosom?" is a good way to start out. If you have second thoughts about initiating hostilities, cover your insults with disingenuous compliments. Her: "So I hear you called me a heartless skank."

You: "Yeah, but that was before I called you a gentle, loving skank." Crisis averted. If the subject of your verbal slings and arrows happens to be male, take him aside to apologize and then hit him with that galvanized wrench you've been saving. Everybody likes a man who's good with tools.

Once meaningless small talk is fully initiated, avoid touchy subjects like sports and the weather by sticking to universally safe topics like politics and religion. Not following this advice could lead to awkward silences.

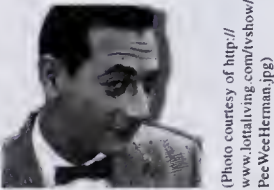
Acquaintance: "Did you guys see the Michigan-Notre Dame game?" You: "Yeah, too bad your mom's still dead." Despite the factual accuracy of your statement, an uncomfortable lull in the conversation will most likely ensue. The best way to break the silence and sooth hurt feelings is with the Canadian national anthem. It's a hard piece to vocalize since it's written in Icelandic, the language of all the northern ice peoples, but your loose acquaintance will get the gist of it when you start making the low guttural sounds and flailing arm motions that comprise its lyrics. Your singing is technically considered small talk as long you use only foreign words and end the conversation by feigning death.

Despite the absolute wisdom of my small talk methods, everyone deals with acquaintances a little bit differently. In fact, many people can't even agree on the difference between an acquaintance and a friend. According to a loose interpretation of a definition in a book resembling a dictionary, an acquaintance is someone you see often enough for communication with him or her to be necessary, but not often enough for you to be required to stop and call 911 if you see the person being mauled to death by a school of hungry largemouth bass. Rather than evoking feelings of concern and empathy, any such scene involving a true acquaintance would raise questions like "Why should I care enough to offer my assistance?" and "Why are you hanging out with the hungry largemouth bass, especially on the sidewalk?" Regardless of whether you're talking to someone you just met who's dying of bass wounds or a sibling you didn't notice until now, small talk is a way of using trivial information to make forced interaction with other human beings a little less awkward and a little more influenced by the galvanized wrench.

The progressive decline in the quality of my articles has little to do with my own shortcomings and much to do with barometric pressure and unrelated sporting events. To read more of my columns, wait two weeks like everybody else.

Pee-wee Impresses Older Fans

By Roger "Jelly" Spitler, Staff Writer



After being off the air for over ten years, *Pee-wee's Playhouse* is back and making people laugh just like it did more than a decade ago. This beloved kids show, which originally aired on CBS from 1986-1991, has been revitalized by Cartoon Network's Adult Swim.

Pee-wee's Playhouse stars Pee-wee, played and created by now infamous Paul Rueben, and a beloved cast of imaginative characters. Pee-wee is famous for his gray suit and red bowtie, greased hair, and high-pitched voice and laugh. Pee-wee's friends at the playhouse include characters like Chairy the chair, Clocky the cock, Ms. Yvonne, King Cartoon, and Conky the Robot to name a few. Characters are created using everything from animations, claymation, puppets, and even real people. Everything in Pee-wee's playhouse seems to be some kind of character, including the food.

In one particular episode, Pee-wee reaches into the fridge to grab a carrot and just happens to catch the end of a wedding between a piece of bread with peanut butter on it (the bride) and a piece of bread with jelly on it (the groom). Pee-wee began to eat the carrot, talking up its great taste and nutritional value, but the first bite causes discomfort for his teeth. The episode takes a turn and focuses on the fears of going to the dentist and explains how the dentist is not a scary guy, which is a great message for kids.

Each week, Pee-wee leads his child audience (which now consists of teenagers) through a series of games, cartoons, and educational projects. Every episode consists of a "word of the day." Upon speaking the magic word, the whole playhouse screams in excitement. Sometimes the word could be as simple as the word "it," while other times the gimmick provides young viewers with the chance to learn and expand their vocabulary because it was a word Pee-wee taught them.

Pee-wee's Playhouse brought joy to kids in a crazy, out-of-control way in stark contrast to other shows of the time, such as *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood* or *Sesame Street*. Originally airing only once a week, *Pee-wee's Playhouse* is now available for an amazing five nights a week at 11 p.m. on Cartoon Network's Adult Swim. Though the show is now aired to be laughed at by an older audience rather than to educate children, *Pee-wee's Playhouse* is still one of America's cult classic television shows. It receives four out of five jellies.

Women’s Golf Drives Away

By Jennifer Hensley, Staff Writer

You guessed it this one is about golf, women’s golf to be correct. Maggie Hobbs, Kate Korn, Nicole LeRose, and Katy Rasco are our star players this year, making up that SJC women’s golf team. Along with this season, the Pumas hosted one home tournament, placing fifth in the five-team SJC Invitational at Sandy Pines Golf Course. During this game, Nicole LeRose (freshman) lead the way by placed sixth overall with a round of 88. Maggie Hobbs finished with 94 to take 12th place, while Katy Rasco was 23rd with 100 and Kate Korn was 25th with 103. The girls have had a good season thus far, having broken records set by last year’s team. That record-breaking moment was at Ferris State Invitational where the Pumas broke the record on the first day getting an 18-hole score of 338, breaking the old score of 342 at the same invitational. However, on the second day the Pumas struggled, finishing the 36-hole game in 16th. However, Hobbs, who placed 40th overall with a score of 165, led SJC. Her total bettered her own school record 36-hole finish by one stroke. Nicole LeRose placed 54th with 171, while Katy Rasco was 89th with 181 and Kate Korn was 97th with 188. For the opening game, the SJC Puma’s placed 11th in a 13 team finish in the Tri-State University Invitational at Zollner Golf Course. SJC, which tallied a score of 371, was led by Nicole LeRose who carded an 88. Maggie Hobbs shot 91 to place 47th, while Kate Korn and Katy Rasco tied for 65th with identical scores of 96. The ladies close out their season the weekend of September 30th, where they will be participating in the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Invitational. Good luck ladies!



Above: Nicole Lerose sets up at the tee. Left: Kate Korn goes for the eagle. (Photo courtesy of Clark Teuscher.)

Men’s Golf Ready to Compete

By Tyler Stouder, Staff Writer

The 2006 Saint Joe Men’s Golf season is underway and halfway done. The team has expanded this year by getting more guys to join the team; however the team this year is really young, carrying 7 freshmen, 6 sophomores and two seniors Dane Brown and Matt Springer. Last year’s team was led by now sophomore Mike Hrunek. Hrunek was named to the All-GLVC and GLVC freshman of the year honors by leading SJC with a stroke average of 75.2 and finishing third overall in the conference championships. Hrunek also set an SJC record



Sophomore Mike Hrunek was the 2006 Great Lakes Freshman of the Year. (Photo courtesy of Clark Teuscher.)

with his 54-hole score of 214 at the GLVC Championships. Brown and Springer contributed last year as well. Springer who was ranked second on the team in scoring average, won the SJC Invitational; he was also the Pumas’ top finisher five times. So far this year, the Pumas have had four outings. SJC opened the year at the Indianapolis Invitational, where as a team they placed 5th out of 10. The Pumas were led by Springer shooting a 74 and placing 12th. The Pumas then had their own invitational at the Sandy Pines Golf Club in Demotte, IN. The Pumas came away with a second place finish, with their top scorer, Hrunek, shooting a 75. This score was good enough for him to take second. After the home outing, SJC traveled to Michigan to compete in the Ferris State Invitational where they placed 8th. The Pumas stayed in Michigan to compete in the Grand Valley State Laker Invitational the next day, where as a team they placed 11th out of 11. The Pumas have three more outings left. They compete in the Regional Qualifier on September 24th through 25th, then on October 9th they compete in the Missouri-St. Louis Riverman Invitational. This is all followed up by the GLVC Conference Championships April 9th-11th. The Pumas finished 9th out of 13 teams last year in the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament.

Puma Football Gears up for GLFC debut

By Andrew Costello, Sports Editor

The month of September always seems like a weird month. You are still getting adjusted to classes and trying to build solid ground for the semester and year ahead. One also deals with the frustration of the finicky northwest Indiana weather, and whether or not to go home every weekend out of boredom. Of course, such an idea does not pertain to just the academic or social world of a college student, but also to football.

September is a great month for any college football enthusiast. Not only does one encounter the joys (and frustrations) of non-conference play, but also the actuality that, yes, it is that time of the year. That a summer of yearning for teams to engage in backyard brawls on the gridiron is over. The time when programs make a statement about the goals and aspirations of their institutions of higher education.

The 2006 Puma football squad, approaching the half-way mark of their schedule, has already made a statement about what it wants to accomplish this season. And they have done so by pursuing the road less traveled. A tough non-conference schedule which included defending Division II champion Grand Valley State and arch-rival Indianapolis, as well as GLIAC stunner Wayne State, has indicated to many critics that the

2006 FOOTBALL		
9/2	St. Francis (IL.)	W 37-0
9/9	Wayne State	W 17-10
9/16	GVSU	L 6-31
9/23	Indianapolis	L 35-22
9/30	UM-Rolla	6:30PM
10/7	Valparaiso	12:00PM
10/14	Lincoln (MO)	1:00PM
10/21	K.Wesleyan	12:00PM
10/28	Fairmont St.	12:00PM
11/4	Central St.	1:30PM
11/11	Tiffin	12:00PM



Pumas are willing to play the tough schools in order get some respect (all apologies to Rodney Dangerfield).

Despite suffering two heartbreaking losses to Grand Valley State and Indianapolis, the Pumas are ready to get focused on the remainder of schedule, the worst already over with.

Last weekend at Alumni Stadium, the Pumas took on the Lakers in what was an incredible turnout for the student body and the entire Rensselaer community. The parking lots were filled, the grills, fired up, and, most importantly, the stands were filled with the Puma loyal, purple and all. The Pumas came out and fought tough, but were unable to stop the potent offense that scored 31 points and countered any SJC effort to get the ball into the end zone. The Laker defense was very punishing, capitalizing

on several miscues from the Pumas.

At Key Stadium on Saturday, the Pumas suffered another devastating loss to the Greyhounds of Indianapolis. The Pumas fell behind 16-0 early and did not recover, resulting in a 35-22 triumph for the arch-rival hounds. Wide receiver Dan Paulsen had 10 receptions for 167 yards, while running back Greg



The Pumas get ready for an offensive series against Grand Valley.

on several miscues from the Pumas. With the stretch of three contests against GLIAC schools now completed, the Pumas look forward to a schedule that includes the initial round of Great Lakes Football Conference games. Senior strong safety Cory Sanders understands that the Pumas have a lot of work to do, but that their drive and ambition will pay off, especially in a conference where the Pumas have faced such teams as Tiffin, Kentucky Wesleyan, and Central State. “We have some things to work on, but there is no need to

hang our heads. We have a great team, offensively and defensively,” says Sanders. Junior wide receiver and three-year starter Dan Paulsen is a part of an offense that looks to break more and more school records, at the expense of such schools as Valparaiso and Lincoln (Mo.). “We had a couple tough games, but after this week, Conference [play] starts, and that is huge,” says Paulsen, who leads the team’s receiving core with 441 yards. “We need to play hard,” he continues. “Everyone’s getting healthy, so we should produce.”

The Pumas are on the road this week facing the University of Missouri-Rolla this Saturday at 6:30 PM. Head Coach Lou Esposito is eager to start Great Lakes Football Conference play. “For us, this week is our first conference game of the year and our most important goal of the year is to win conference. You are never happy to lose two in a row, but you have to get back on the winning ship. [Missouri] Rolla is a great offense with a tough defense, and that team plays really hard. But with a good effort from us, we should be able to hang with them,” says a determined Esposito. The Pumas are back in action at Alumni Stadium on October 7th at 12 PM, when they face Valparaiso in the Homecoming Game.



Cory Sanders and Corrie Gregory provide a 1-2 punch on the defense. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland.)



Quarterback Anthony Lindsey orchestrates a potential score for the Pumas.

Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland. All Football statistics courtesy of Clark Teuscher.

September 28, 2006

Chase's NFL Predictions

By Chase Sonen, Staff Writer

Football season is finally here. Thank goodness for all of us fans who are tired of watching the Cubs stumble all season, and the White Sox fall apart when it matters the most. Oh yeah, I realize I was way off about my baseball predictions...so sue me. Anyway, with that said, the Indianapolis Colts and Chicago Bears look to be two of the better teams in the league this season. Luckily for us, they seem to be the two favorite team's among students at this school as well. With that said, there should be many shouts of joy and disgust echoing through the decadent hallways of the Joe on Sunday afternoons for the next few months. If you are a football fan like myself, when your team is not playing, you still are glued to the TV set to watch other top match-ups. These are a few games that I feel every football fan should watch since they could make or break a team's season.

Sun Oct 1st 7:15 PM Seahawks @ Bears: This is a match-up of what many believe are the two top teams in the NFC. This early season match-up really can give bragging rights to the winner for the rest of the season. Last year the Bears lacked a quarterback like Rex Grossman and still got the 2nd seed behind the Seahawks. If they can hold Shaun Alexander in check they should be able to outlast the Seahawks.
Prediction: Bears 24 Seahawks 13

Sun Oct 22nd 12:00 PM Panthers @ Bengals: This is a match-up that features two of the best receivers in the game with Chad Johnson and Steve Smith. In what looks to be a shootout, don't underestimate the Panthers defense that still looks to be one of the best in the league. Can that overcome one of the best quarterbacks in the game and a home field advantage however?
Prediction: Bengals 11 Panthers 20

Sun, Nov. 5th 7:15 PM Colts @ Patriots: If there was ever a thorn in the Colts side it would be the New England Patriots. A team that is similar to the Pistons when the Bulls tried to make in the finals in the late 80's and early 90's, the Patriots are the one team that seems to have figured out the explosive Colts offense. Can they do it again?
Prediction: Colts 28 Patriots 24

Sun Nov 19th 12:00 PM Falcons @ Ravens: A fast defense versus a fast quarterback. A team that loves to run the ball against a team that prides itself in stopping the run. If those first two scenarios don't excite you how about that fact that both teams are named after birds?



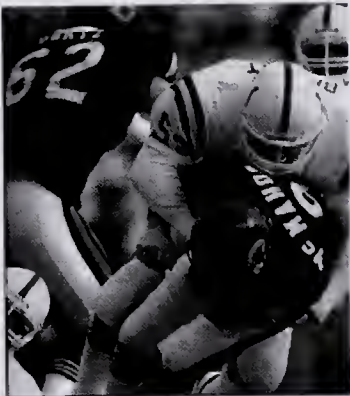
Prediction: Ravens 17 Falcons 9

Sun Nov. 26th 12:00 PM Bears @ Patriots: This game might show the Bears were they stand among the elite in the NFL. The Patriots have been through the wars, and while the Bears are slowly growing into a powerhouse, the Patriots have also been an upper echelon team for a greater period of time. Plus they are at home which might give them a big edge...for now.
Prediction: Patriots 24 Bears 20

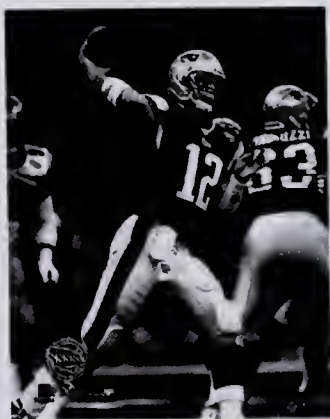
Sun Nov 26th 12:00 PM Steelers @ Ravens: Two teams that rely on defense and a smash mouth running game. The defending Super Bowl champs look to show an up and coming team the right formula for winning a big game. It is true that defense wins championships, ask the Colts, and here are two of the best.
Prediction: Steelers 14 Ravens 10

Mon Dec 18th 7:15 PM Bengals @ Colts: Arguably the top two quarterbacks in the league, with due respects to Tom Brady, match-up in the game. This game looks to be a high scoring shootout that might come down to who has the ball last, or turns the ball over the least.
Prediction: Colts 45 Bengals 38

So those are some "can't miss" games to look forward to this season. Check back later for my playoff and Super Bowl predictions, but as for now I'll take Bears versus Colts as the game to watch.



The Chicago Bears will be a force to reckon with in the NFC.



<http://artfiles.art.com/images/-/Tom-Brady---Action-SB-XXXVI-9---Photofile-Photograph-C10108008.jpeg>

Volleyball Team Looks for Turn- Around

By Mike Koscielny, Staff Writer

Any ordinary volleyball article about any ordinary women's volleyball team would begin with some claver pun incorporating "bump," "set" or "spike," but this is no ordinary volleyball article about an extraordinary women's volleyball team here at Saint Joseph's College.

Reaching the half-way point of their season last week before their Friday and Saturday games, the women had a record of 1-12 with a conference record of 0-5.

"We started out with a very tough schedule right off the bat," Jill Schopieray, head coach, said, "especially in conference."

This season is Schopieray's first coaching at SJC. She is still very hopeful for the team.

"The team is working very hard to change their season around," Schopieray said. "Our number one team goal is to make the conference tournament, which is still very attainable."

One obvious concern for the team is coping and dealing with the low morale that comes with such a disappointing start to a season.

"Actually the team's spirits are extremely high," Schopieray said. "We are having the best practices of the season."

Then the team was away for two games, one Friday in Louisville, KY against Bellarmine University and the other Saturday in Highland Heights, KY against Northern Kentucky University.

Against Bellarmine, the women of SJC won the first match 36-34 but then lost the next three 30-22, 30-26 and 30-23. Sophomore Joy Trendelman, a Biology/Chemistry major, recorded a personal-best 27 kills, Robyn Bozych, a sophomore Biology major, finished the match one shy of a personal best with 51 assists, while senior Eryn Speed, a mass communications major, had a career-high 19 digs.

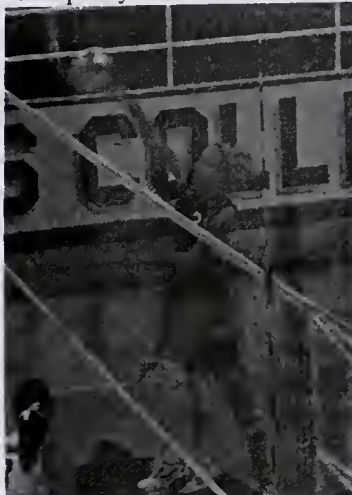
The next day, about 200 miles away at NKU, the SJC volleyball team battled hard again with the same results. NKU won the first two matches, 30-26 and 30-27. SJC won the third match 30-2 but then fell to NKU 30-20. Senior Breanne Evans, a business administration major, junior Stacey West, an art major, and freshman Sara Cramer led the team with 11, 10 and 10 kills respectively. West also ended the day with six blocks while Cramer had four service aces and Bozych had 32 assists.

The women get the week to rest and refocus as their next match is scheduled for Friday, September 29 in Raleigh Fieldhouse. It starts at 7 p.m. against Lewis University. There is another game the next day, also in Raleigh Fieldhouse, against the

University of Wisconsin-Parkside. That game is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m.

Go out and support the women's volleyball team. With two home matches in two days, there is no excuse not to go out and cheer for them.

"With the tough part of our season out of the way the team looks forward to adding more wins into the win column," Schopieray said.



(Photo courtesy of <http://www.saintjoe.edu/athletics/sportmain.php?sport=volleyball>).

Cross Country Teams Compete at Notre Dame

By Dustin Lauer, Guest Writer

On Friday September 15, 2006, the Saint Joseph's College men's and women's cross country team competed in one of their biggest meets of the year, the 27th annual National Catholic Championship held at the Notre Dame Golf Course. The women finished 15th out of 34 teams, and the men 18th out of 31 teams.

The women's team ran their 5K first at 4:00 PM. Dressed in purple and starting from the far left, the Saint Joseph's women had the furthest route to cut in for the first turn. Junior Ashley Moore led the Puma pack throughout the race. The Lady Pumas finished with 504 team points, which was good enough to earn them 15th place in a field of 34 teams. Running through



Junior Matt Leonardo in stride. (Photo by Dustin Lauer.)



Sophomore Todd Laubhan surges past the competition. (Photo by Fr. Tim McFarland).



Mohr, Sawmiller, and Stockmaster chase down an Xavier runner. (Photo courtesy of Dustin Lauer.)

the two mile marker at time of 12:35, Ashley was just over a minute away from the overall leader, junior Sunni Olding of the University of Notre Dame. (Sunni Olding became the first women to repeat 1st place at the National Catholic Championship.) Ashley was the 39th overall finisher and finished first for the Lady Pumas with a time of 19:48. She was followed in by sophomore Jacqui Mohr (119th place, 21:09), freshman Tiffani Sawmiller (123rd place, 21:11), senior Jordan Henley (124th place, 21:13), and junior Danielle Stockmaster (135th place, 21:24). Saint Joe's Head Coach Bill Massoels said, "I just can't say enough about how well the girls performed today... They came ready to run and compete."

The men's race (8K) took place an hour later at 5:00 PM. Junior Matt Leonardo finished first for the Pumas with a time of 27:33. The men's team finished in 18th place overall in the first division of 31 teams with a score of 521. First place individually, for the men was a close race between Jake Watson of Notre Dame and John Riak of Saint Martin's University, but Riak held the lead through the final stretch to win. Following Leonardo, sophomore Todd Laubhan finished 99th place overall with a time of 28:14. Behind him were Pumas freshman Val Ploetz (126th place, 28:39), senior Andy Vandehey (167th place, 29:28), and junior Andrew Costello (200th place, 30:45).

"We ran well earlier in the year; today just wasn't our best," one harrier stated. Coach Massoels commented, "The guys team did not run as I obviously wanted." When asked about the significantly larger time gap this meet as compared to his previously meets he declined to comment saying, "I haven't seen the official results."

The Pumas will compete again at the Greater Louisville Classic on September 30.



VH1: Celebrities & Society

Popular Dissent with Danny Waclaw

Britney Spears has another baby! And Whitney and Bobby are finally getting separated! Scandal! Swoon!

With the limited television channels at our disposal on campus, it is no wonder that the sentinel of celebrity gossip, VH1, has slowly invaded our everyday lives. We may even forgo homework—even more scandalous!—to find out who broke up with whom on *Best Week Ever!* or to pick up helpful hints from *Celebrity Fit Club*. And who would want to take the time to read *Rolling Stone* when you can watch the even more educational *Pop-Up Video*?

Yes, it would seem that VH1 is just another college student's excuse to be lazy. No doubt some would take offense at that statement.

But maybe there's a reason for that.

The funny thing about VH1 is that it isn't all fun and games—well, not all of the time, anyway. Popular culture has become so everyday for all of us that we rarely see it as a medium through which any type of helpful life-lessons or social commentary could be extracted. And yet VH1

remains an extremely popular cable station.

One explanation for the station's popularity could be that VH1's programming is not strictly limited to shows such as *Fabulous Life of Nicole Ritchie* or *Flavor of Love 2*. The *Rock Docs* series examines everything



Dee Snider, lead singer of Twisted Sister and PMRC enemy, is featured in VH1's documentary on heavy metal. (Courtesy of <http://www.deesnider.com>)

about music—the voice of modern pop culture—while still keeping the ideas presented fresh and without academic overtones.

Consider *Metal: A Headbanger's Journey*. Heavy metal is rarely accepted as an important contribution to society, but this documentary makes a case for its mass appeal despite

the general public's mass hatred for it. Maybe the crazy make-up, big hair, and enormous technological stage effects aren't just to make people mad; maybe they exist to make a statement against the establishment's unwillingness to break free from unnecessary conventions in society.

And it doesn't stop with music. *Black in the '80s*, another documentary, focuses on the advancement and achievement of the black community, moving beyond the blackploitation era of the '70s towards national acknowledgement of equality. And there are even more of these documentaries on society through the lens of popular culture.

But we never hear about these critically-acclaimed series. All we hear about is the latest relationship woes of Tara Reid or the latest crazy Courtney Love stint. We do know, however, that hours are spent watching this television channel: so what gives? Surely, these pieces of social commentary aren't completely ignored by the occasional viewer.

In short, then, the next time your friends tell you whom Orlando Bloom just broke up with, you might want to give them a little credit. They're smarter than you think.

On the Town

Gallery Walk in Lafayette

- What? *Local artists and gallery owners open their doors for prospective buyers and interested passersby.*
- When? *6 PM to 10 PM EST on Friday, September 29, 2006.*
- Where? *Any of the multiple galleries located in downtown Lafayette, Indiana.*
- No tickets or fees! (And free hors d'oeuvres besides!)

Lucy Kaplansky Live

- Who? *Chicago-raised Kaplansky sings covers and original songs.*
- When? *7 PM EST on October, 22, 2006. (Doors open at 6:30 PM.)*
- Where? *Duncan Hall at 619 Ferry Street in Lafayette, Indiana.*
- Tickets are \$12 at the door or \$10 in advance. Visit friends-of-bob.org.

Overheard

If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to dwj5079@saintjoe.edu today to let your peers' voices be heard!

- Did you know Mr. Spock was gay?
~
I think you're like those ostriches in *Fantasia*.
~
Have you gotten in touch with your inner Catholic lately?
~
I haven't Germ-X-ed my hands yet!
~
I like it on my nipple.
~
Ist das dein Mineralwasser?
~
Which friggin' symphony is it?!
- Father may know best, but mother knows most.

Nota Bene

*"Men marry because they are tired; women because they are curious. Both are disappointed."
~Oscar Wilde~*

Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for Sept 29 - Oct 5
(219) 866-2222
fountainstonetheaters.com

Open Season

Fri: 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 (PG)
Sat: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
Sun: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00
Mon-Th: 5:00, 7:00

The Guardian

Fri: 4:20, 6:50, 9:20 (PG-13)
Sat: 4:20, 6:50, 9:20
Sun: 4:20, 6:50
Mon-Th: 4:20, 6:50

School for Scoundrels

Fri: 5:10, 7:10, 9:10 (PG-13)
Sat: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10
Sun: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10
Mon-Th: 5:10, 7:10

Jackass: Number Two

Fri: 5:20, 7:20, 9:20 (R)
Sat: 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20
Sun: 3:20, 5:20, 7:20
Mon-Th: 5:20, 7:20

Gridiron Gang

Fri: 4:30, 6:50, 9:10 (PG-13)
Sat: 4:30, 6:50, 9:10
Sun: 4:30, 6:50
Mon-Th: 4:30, 6:50

Matinees are before 6:00PM and are \$5.00. Adults' tickets after 6:00PM are \$7.00.

Measure Box

Bright
a poem by John Daugherty

For recreational procrastination,
I look up to think about how overwhelmed I am,
bleach fluorescence blinding me.
How I found the brightest one I'll never know;
when I look around, all the other ones are grey
with dust or something else, uninhibited
to blind the apathetic saps below.
Some divine plan.

Want to be heard? E-mail any poem or photo to dwj5079@saintjoe.edu.

War
a poem by Danny Waclaw

At picnics, parties, family functions,
the normally lackadaisical housefly,
who's only got 24 hours
to kill before death,
turns into a predator.
He lands on a chunk of gorgeous
wedding cake, pristine in its white pattern,
lets his lust overtake him, and
vomits.

Karma and the Cosmos

Divined by our own Auntie Cleo



Libra (Sept 22- Oct 22)

Your life is too stressful right now. It is time to take a break and get a good laugh. Go see a funny movie and hang out with people who know how to have a good time.

Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21)

So, too many tests, papers, and projects are due soon? It is time to focus on your schoolwork. You are not paying \$30,000 a year to learn how to consume alcohol.

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 20)

The cafeteria food has not been very tasty lately, yet you seem to have picked up a little bit of junk in the trunk. Try to stay away from the cookie tray for a while and your body with thank you.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)

Your parents have been on your back lately and you are starting to feel the pressure. Remember, in their eyes you are still their little baby, so take their advice when they offer it.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)

Okay, Superman, even though you are trying to rid your life of all the dead weight around you, not everyone on campus cares to know. Stop being so full of yourself because your super powers are fading fast.

Pisces (Feb. 18-March 20)

It is fine to be an overachiever sometimes, but your pocket protector is getting a bit worn out. Take off your glasses and step away from your computer. There is life beyond Core.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Having roomie issues? It is time to be an adult and face the problems. Telling everyone else aside from your roommate is only making matters worse. Communication is the key.

Taurus (April 20-May 19)

What good is holding a grudge? It is time to move on! Learn to forgive and forget—friends *do* make mistakes. Your friendship can only mend if you let it.

Gemini (May 20-June 20)

You may feel like crawling under a rock and hiding from the entire world. This waste-of-life feeling will soon fade. Let your frustration out and stop dwelling on the negativity.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)

Just because your friends are fighting does not mean you have to play Dr. Phil for them. Make them fix the situation themselves. If you get involved, it will only make matters worse.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)

Do you feel like you have a four-leaf clover in your back pocket? Well, you just might find one because it is your lucky day! For once things are all going your way. Do not freak out—just live it up!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)

If you experience a misunderstanding with a professor, do not communicate via e-mail. Explaining yourself in person is more effective than your recent lack of word choice.